

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

FIG. 3 is a block diagram of a structure of the combination machine 31. The combination machine 31 comprises a software group 32, a combination-machine starting section 33 and hardware resources 34. The software group 32 includes an application layer 35 and a ~~platform~~ platform 36 that are operated on an operating system (OS) such as the UNIX (trademark). Moreover, the hardware resources 34 include a monochrome laser printer (B&W LP) 41, a color laser printer (Color LP) 42 and other hardware resources 43 such as a scanner and a facsimile.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 19, line 21, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The application layer 35 includes a printer application 51, a copy application 52, a facsimile application 53, a scanner application 54 and a network file application 55. The ~~platform~~ platform 36 includes a control service layer 37, a system resource manager (SRM) 69 and a handler layer 38. The control service layer 37 interprets a process request from the application layer 35 so as to generate acquisition requests for the hardware resources 34. The SRM 69 manages the hardware resources 34 and arbitrates the acquisition requests from the control service layer 37. The handler layer 38 manages the hardware resources 34 in accordance with the acquisition requests from the SRM 69.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 20, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The control service layer 37 includes one or more service modules, such as a network control service (NCS) 61, a delivery control service (DCS) 62, an operation panel control service (OPS) 63, a fax control service (FCE) 64, an engine control service (ECS) 65, a memory control service (MCS) 66, a user information control service (UCD) 67 or a system control service (SCS) 68. It should be noted that the platform 36 is arranged to include an application program interface (API) 81. The OS carries out parallel execution of each software of the application layer 35 and the ~~plat-form~~ platform 36 as a process.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 26, line 20, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The program starting section 131 starts an operation of the SD card check section 132 according to an insertion or removal of the SD card 136. Moreover, the program starting section 131 starts execution of the program in the SD card 136 according to the status information of the SD card 136 supplied from the SD card status monitor driver 134. The SD card check section 132 checks consistency as a medium, that is, whether or not partitions are correct or whether or not the file system is correct, so as to cause the SD card 136 to be in a usable state. The SD card check section 132 has a checking function, a mounting function, an unmounting function, a status notifying function, etc., of the SD card 136. The SD card check section 132 serves as recording-medium starting means for activating the SD card (recording medium) 136 detected by the detection means to be in an accessible state. Moreover, the program starting section 131 serves as program starting means for performing the authentication check on the SD card (recording medium) 136, reading a program from the SD ~~ear~~ card 136 when a result of the authentication check is normal, and starting an execution of the read program.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 38, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

For example, the first recording-medium creation apparatus 250 comprises a communication section 251, a license information creation section ~~e52~~ 252, a starting program creation section 253, an effective program list 254 and a program 255. The second recording-medium creation apparatus 260 comprises an electronic signature creation section 261 and a private key 262. Since the communication section 251, the license information creation section 252, the starting program creation section 253, the effective program list 254, the program 255, the electronic signature creation section 261 and the private key 262 shown in FIG. 13 are equivalent to the communication section 231, the license information creation section 232, the starting program creation section 234, the effective program list 235, the program 237, the electronic signature creation section 233 and the private key 236 shown in FIG. 12, respectively, descriptions thereof will be omitted.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 47, line 15, with the following rewritten paragraph:

It should be noted that the recording-medium creation system ~~3~~ 203 of FIG. 22 may be of a structure shown in FIG. 23. FIG. 23 is a block diagram of another example of the recording-medium creation system for producing an updating SD card. The recording-medium creation system 204 differs from the recording-medium creation system 203 in that the recording-medium creation apparatus is divided into a first recording-medium creation apparatus 250 and a second recording-medium creation apparatus 260.